



USCGC BERTHOLF

NEWSLETTER



BERTHOLF begins its transit through the Panama Canal.
Photo by PA3 Anderson

July 13th, 2008 – Welcome aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter BERTHOLF (WMSL-750), the first of the Legend Class Cutters!



BERTHOLF spent the weekend of June 27th-29th at Fell's Point in Baltimore, MD. The cutter hosted several receptions, and dignitaries such as Secretary Michael Chertoff, his wife and the ship's sponsor, Meryl Chertoff, as well as the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Thad Allen. The cutter was opened up for public tours and it's estimated that 3,000 people visited BERTHOLF over the course of the weekend.

After our public viewing in Baltimore, BERTHOLF headed south where we spent the 4th of July holiday resting and relaxing in Cozumel, Mexico. Crewmembers took advantage of their time in port by scuba diving, snorkeling, and enjoying the natural beauty of the area. Other members flew to mainland Mexico to see the ruins of Chichen Itza.

After we departed Cozumel, we continued further south and sped as quickly as possible to the Panama Canal. We anchored out and BERTHOLF underwent her first Canal inspection; and shortly thereafter we departed the anchorage and headed for the first set of locks.



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After about a 6 hour transit through the canal late at night, we finally arrived in the Pacific where we moored up to get some needed sleep as well as fuel the next morning. Two US Navy ships were moored nearby and stopped by to take a tour of the cutter. Their crew members were amazed by the crew accommodations and technology onboard. Judging by their reactions, we think that a few of their crew might be trying to switch branches soon!

We're all excited to finally be sailing in the waters of the Pacific! In less than two weeks we will be arriving to our homeport of Alameda. We'll be painting, cleaning, and prepping to look our best upon arrival home, and for our commissioning on August 4th. We'll be keeping busy with our preps and a few more drills, but our adventures at sea will soon be coming to an end. We're all looking forward to seeing our friends and family waving to us from the pier when we arrive home!

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"Legends Begin Here"

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